



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
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Press Release

January 15, 2002

Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw, Jr. reached a settlement with Iams Funeral Home in New Martinsville, West Virginia, and its former owner, John L. Iams, Sr. An investigatory audit by the Preneed Funeral Unit revealed substantial shortfalls in moneys earmarked for preneed funeral contracts. After consumers entrusted their money to Iams as advance payment for funeral services, Iams failed to report the money to the Preneed Funeral Unit as required by law. The audit revealed that consumers' funds were missing from Iams' trust accounts, having been used for other, unknown purposes.

In November of 2001, Iams Funeral Home entered into an Assurance of Discontinuance whereby John L. Iams Sr. was forever banned from entering the funeral home or associating with the business in any way. In addition, John L. Iams Sr. signed a separate Assurance, agreed to pay \$9,312.91, and permanently relinquished his funeral director's license.

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